(b) and (c) Fresh allocation of foodgrains from the Central Pool, for commercial exports, has been stopped w.e.f. 11.8.2003. Only a quantity of 48,240 MTs of wheat has been exported by PEC Ltd., a Government of India Enterprise, out of which 46,224 MT was exported on behalf of World Food Programme (WFP), as part of humanitarian assistance. The exports were made at a rate of US $161.50 to US $ 168.00 Per MT(FOB).

(d) Safeguard mechanism is an integral part of any import or export policy to ward off vested interests and had been provided in the export scheme as well.

PDS allocations to Assam and West Bengal

†1307. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat provided by the Central Government to the State of Assam and West Bengal under PDS during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the wheat so provided was given to flour mills instead of being distributed among public;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the benefit of subsidy supposed to be availed by public was availed by the mill owners; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps being taken by Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The quantum of wheat provided by the Central Government to the State of Assam and West Bengal under Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the years 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given in the statement (See below).

(b) to (d) While allocating foodgrains under TPDS, the Government of India does not earmark any quantity to be allotted to Roller Flour Mills.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government of West Bengal and Government of Assam, however, allowed custom milling of unlifted quantity of APL wheat into atta for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS). The Government of West Bengal have stated that they have done so in the interest of TPDS beneficiaries whereas Government of Assam have stated that this was undertaken on trial basis in pursuance of the order of the Guwahati High Court. In June, 2005 all the State Governments, including those of Assam and West Bengal, were asked by the Government of India that foodgrains under the TPDS were to be distributed in wholegrains and not in its derivatives. However, on the requests of the Government of West Bengal, the Government of India have allowed custom milling of unlifted APL wheat in the State @5,000 tonnes per month for five months from July to November, 2005 as a special arrangement and one time measure to maintain the availability of atta in West Bengal during the festival months. The Government of West Bengal has been asked to ensure strictly that no wheat/atta milled from wheat of the above allocation is diverted to purposes other than the TPDS.

Statement

The quantity of wheat provided by the Central Government to *the States of Assam & West Bengal under TPDS*

STATE: ASSAM				
Year		Allotment of wheat	;in '000 tonnes)	
	BPL	AAY	APL	Total
2002-03	0.00	0.00	482.975	482.975
2003-04	0.00	0.00	260.000	260.000
2004-05	0.00	0.00	410.000	410.000
STATE: WEST BENGAL				
2002-03	700.584	153.900	3641.934	4496.418
2003-04	851.376	153.900	3506.520	4511.796
2004-05	810.166	195.110	3506.520	4511.796